Dean’s Forum – “The Future of Legal Education”

17 May 2018

--- Phyllis Yan

The School of Law of City University of Hong Kong is marking its 30th anniversary as a path-breaking provider of legal education in Hong Kong and Asia Pacific region. To celebrate this remarkable occasion, the School of Law hosted the Dean’s Forum on 10 and 11 May 2018. The objectives of Dean’s Forum was to provide a platform where Deans and leading scholars from prestigious law schools in the world shared and exchanged their opinions concerning the future of legal education and put forward useful suggestions to improve their law schools and legal education in general. It also improved knowledge relating to legal education and the ways the School of Law and other universities teach law and prepare their students for the legal market.

The Forum was kicked off by introductory remarks of the Dean of our Law School Professor Geraint Howells, who explained the themes of Forum, namely, straddling between liberal and professional education with law schools, legal education through the lens of students career prospects, and legal education and technology.
To promote international collaboration and efficient student exchanges, the School of Law signed various collaborative agreements with the institutions which participated in the Forum, including, Faculty of Law, KU Leuven University; School of International Law, East China University of Political Science and Law; and School of Law, Jilin University.

Professor Geraint Howells, Dean, School of Law, CityU, signed the Student Exchange Agreement with Professor Dr. Bernard Tilleman, Dean, Faculty of Law, KU Leuven University.

Professor Geraint Howells, Dean, School of Law, CityU, signed the LLM/ JD collaborative agreement and Addendum to the Supplementary Agreement regarding the “International Legal Science Undergraduate Programme” with Professor Li Weifang, Dean, School of International Law, East China University of Political Science and Law.
Professor Geraint Howells, Dean, School of Law, CityU, signed the Student Exchange Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Exchange with Professor Cai Lidong, Dean, School of Law, Jilin University.

The Forum consisted of five panels, each followed by discussions. The topics of the presentations are as follows (according to the order of presentation).

- **Professional versus Liberal Legal Education: Fundamental Tension or False Dichotomy?**
  Professor Toni Williams (Head & Professor of Law, Law School, University of Kent)

- **The Balance Between Liberal and Professional Legal Education – Changing Landscapes**
  Professor Alastair Mullis (Head, School of Law, University of Leeds)

- **Liberal and Professional Education: Hong Kong’s Future**
  Professor Christopher Gane (Dean, Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

- **The Development, Challenge and Reform of Juris Master Program in Mainland China**
  Professor Shi Yanan (Director of International Office; Director of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan Affairs Office, Renmin University of China)

- **Experience of ZUEL Law School in the Integration of Liberal Education into Professional Legal Education**
  Professor Xu Diyu (Dean, Law School, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law)

- **Legal Response to Modern Information Technology Development and Establishment of Computational Law**
  Professor Shen Weixing (Dean, School of Law, Tsing Hua University)

- **The Role of Moot Court in Legal Education**
  Professor Li Weifang (Dean & Professor of Law, School of International Law, East China University of Political Science and Law)

- **Legal Education – Theory, Practice or Both?**
  Professor Goh Yihan (Dean & Associate Professor, School of Law, Singapore Management University)

- **Strengthening Focus Through a Broad and International Scope: The Leuven Approach of**
Future-proofing Law Graduates
Professor Dr. Bernard Tilleman (Dean, Faculty of Law, KU Leuven University)

- Liberal Legal Education: Theory and Practice Reconciled
  Professor Hoi Kong (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, McGill University)

- The Challenges of Legally Educating a Global Student Body Toward Multiple Career Paths
  Professor Martin Hogg (Dean, Edinburgh Law School, The University of Edinburgh)

- An Exploration of the Internationalization of Legal Education in China
  Professor Kong Qingjiang (Dean & Professor of Law, School of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law)

- Lack of Education in Social Science in Legal Education
  Professor Zhang Liang (Vice Dean & Professor of Law, School of Law, Sun Yat-sen University)

- Challenges Faced by the Law School In a Time of Fast Change
  Dr. Zhang Sheng (Assistant Dean & Associate Professor, School of Law, Xi’an Jiaotong University)

- Law, Technology and Education: A Perspective from the University of New South Wales
  Dr. Ben Golder (Associate Dean (Education) & Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales)

- LegalTech in the Law School Curriculum: Challenges and Opportunities
  Professor Toby Seddon (Head, School of Law, University of Manchester)

- Implement Smart Teaching and Promote the Version 3.0 Legal Talents Training Program
  Professor Cai Lidong (Dean, School of Law, Jilin University)

- Studio Without Borders: Collaborative Learning for Law and Architecture
  Professor Alice Lee
  (Associate Dean (Academic Affairs) & Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong)
Panel 1 (from left to right):
Professor Toni Williams (University of Kent); Professor Alastair Mullis (University of Leeds); Dr Chen Lei (Moderator, City University of Hong Kong); and Professor Christopher Gane (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Panel 2 (from left to right):
Professor Xu Diyu (Zhongnan University of Economics and Law); Professor Shi Yanan (Renmin University of China); Dr Mark Kielsgard (Moderator, City University of Hong Kong); Professor Shen Weixing (Tsing Hua University); and Professor Li Weifang (East China University of Political Science and Law)
Panel 3 (from left to right):
Professor Hoi Kong (McGill University); Professor Goh Yihan (Singapore Management University); Dr Ding Chunyan (Moderator, City University of Hong Kong); and Professor Dr. Bernard Tilleman (KU Leuven University)

Panel 4 (from left to right):
Professor Kong Qingjiang (China University of Political Science and Law); Professor Martin Hogg (The University of Edinburgh); Professor Lin Feng (Moderator, City University of Hong Kong), Professor Zhang Liang (Sun Yat-sen University); and Dr. Zhang Sheng (Xi’an Jiaotong University)
Panel 5 (from left to right): Professor Cai Lidong (Jilin University); Dr. Ben Golder (University of New South Wales); Dr Surya Deva (Moderator, City University of Hong Kong); Professor Toby Seddon (University of Manchester); and Professor Alice Lee (The University of Hong Kong)

Through discussion and debate, the Forum’s atmosphere was full of enthusiasm. While the speakers delivered excellent and insightful presentations, the audience actively participated in the discussions sessions, giving critical comments and putting forward challenging questions to speakers. The Forum enhances the leading role of the CityU Law School as a major local and global actor in the field of legal education and research.